



Students' Association
Film and Television Institute of India,
Law College Road,
Pune: 411004

Date – 14/09/2015

To,
Shri. Arun Jaitley,
Hon. Minister, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,
Government of India

Sir,

The ensuing crisis, that is in its most extreme and perilous stage is really an unfortunate situation for all the stakeholders of this institution. It is especially dangerous for the students who have gone on a hunger strike to get their concerns addressed and has placed the entire institute, students, teachers, and staff alike under inexplicable emotional, physical and mental duress.

We do sincerely hope that this letter is read empathetically and a genuine effort is made to understand the concerns of the students of the premier film school in the nation. We write that because we do sincerely feel that this crisis has been elongated because of a breakdown of communication between students and their own government, a reality that is the most unfortunate fact of this now almost 100 day long agitation.

One of our students has been on a hunger strike for about 100 hours now; this step that he has taken cannot be looked at in isolation, nor as a strategy to get 'our demands'. All these misconceptions must now be cast aside and his action must be understood for being representative of the fundamental loss of faith each student here has felt in the overall failing of the institute for several years that has only spilled over in this agitation.

Despite the deep disappointment and anguish the students and scores of the citizens of this nation have felt over the handling of this issue, perhaps best epitomized in the 3 member delegation that came on campus, generated optimism of a resolution and then vanished into thin air, you will find that students and the concerned citizens of this nation alike are still ready to believe. Ready to believe and trust that the government that they elected will now swoop in and resolve the situation, safeguard the interests of the best film institute in the country and restore lost faith in the incumbent government and ministry's governance. This is still a possibility that we hope for, a possibility that the students who currently sit under the FTII Wisdom on an indefinite hunger strike, putting their health and lives at risk still hope for.

As always, we reiterate that the students are keen to arrive at a solution, but for this, we need to have a dialogue with the actual decision makers of this institute, so that we can arrive at this solution immediately. We do feel that a dialogue on our campus with the Hon. Minister or Hon. Minister of State's benevolent presence that begins with an open mind, and in which genuine efforts are made by the ministry to understand each one of our concerns can result in solutions being arrived at together, and this elongated agitation that is benefitting no one can finally be brought to an end. Dialogue, we do feel at this stage is the only means to resolve this crisis with immediate effect.

As always, we await your response with optimism and hope in our hearts, and expectant that you will realize the seriousness of the situation at present, and the damage being caused to this institute and our students who sit on the hunger strike for each day, hour, minute that passes by without a resolution.

Thanks,

Harishankar Nachimuthu
President
Students' Association, FTII

CC: Hon. Minister of State, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Joint Secretary, Ministry of I&B, Government of India
Secretary, Ministry of I&B, Government of India